

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 31, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 47, 52, and 54 have been amended to improve clarity of the features recited therein. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Claims 49-51 and 53 were cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 28-38, 40-46, 48, and 55. Claim 47 was objected to and claims 49-54 were rejected.

Claims 28-38, 40-48, 52, and 54-55 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claim 47 was objected to for a minor informality. Claim 47 has been amended to correct such minor informality. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claim be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 49-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

In response, claims have been amended to improve clarity and antecedent support.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the § 112, second paragraph rejections to the claims be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 50 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0085719 to Crosbie (“Crosbie”). The Office Action took the position that paragraphs [0041]-[0049] and FIG. 2 of Crosbie describe the recitations of independent claims 50 and 53.

Because claims 50 and 53 been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 50 and 53 under §102 over Crosbie is considered moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 49 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(e) as being obvious over Crosbie in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,578,085 to Khalil et al.. The Office Action took the position that Crosbie and Khalil describe the recitations of independent claims 49 and 51.

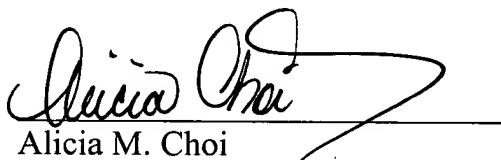
Because claims 49 and 51 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 49 and 51 under §103 over Crosbie and Khalil is considered moot.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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